



PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

WHEREAS, Juneteenth commemorates the day that enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas were informed of their emancipation by the Union Army, over two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, slavery was formally abolished in the United States by the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, on June 19, 1866, former enslaved African Americans in Texas celebrated the first "Jubilee Day", the holiday we now know as Juneteenth; and

WHEREAS, June 19th, 2023, will mark the 158th Anniversary of that historic day and 3 years since President Biden signed the bill to officially designate Juneteenth as a federal holiday and a national day of observance; and

WHEREAS, Americans continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth historically has been celebrated in Yolo County for over 20 years, and first celebrated by Yolo County Library and the Culture C.O.-O.P. in 2011; and with the help of the Friends of the Davis Public Library, the City of Davis, and UC Davis, has celebrated annually (except in 2020) since 2017; and

WHEREAS, with thanks to the committee planners from Yolo County Library, UC Davis Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and the County's Umoja Committee; and with support from the City of Davis Arts & Cultural Affairs program, the Friends of the Davis Public Library, and the Yolo County Office of Education, the 2023 Yolo Juneteenth Celebration was held on June 4 at UC Davis; and

WHEREAS, "Together we Heal" was made the theme for 2023, which recognized the importance the community makes in overcoming the systemic injustices that the African Americans continue to endure; and

WHEREAS, while celebrating Juneteenth is partly about celebrating the liberation of African Americans, no true celebration of Juneteenth can be achieved without the tackling modern-day inequities.

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Davis City Council, on behalf of the citizens of Davis, do hereby proclaim June 19th, 2023 as Juneteenth in the City of Davis and encourage the people of Davis to observe this significant milestone with commemorative ceremonies, activities, and programs.

Date: June 6, 2023

Will Arnold
Mayor of Davis

Josh Chapman
Vice Mayor

Donna Neville
Councilmember

Gloria Partida
Councilmember

Babu Vaitla
Councilmember

